

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted to enter the above amendments and the following information in the present continuation application.

PENDING CLAIMS

Original Claims 1-5 and 11-28 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of any scope or subject matter, since such claims are allowed in the pending parent application. At entry of this paper, Claims 6-10 and 29 are pending in the application for consideration and examination.

Applicant reserves the right to introduce new claims/limitations/features as previously cancelled or not previously claimed which are supported by the original application as filed, as well as amendments to the claims presented herein, and respectfully informs the Office that any such claims/limitations/features/amendments will be submitted in a Supplemental Preliminary Amendment timely filed within three (3) months of the original filing date of this continuation.

CLAIMS FOR PRIORITY UNDER §§119/120

Applicant claims benefit of prior application No. 09/799,527 filed 7 March 2001 under 35 USC §120. Applicant also claims priority of JP 2000-088503 filed 24 March 2000, the certified copy of which was filed in the prior application on 9 April 2001.

Applicant respectfully requests written acknowledgment of the completion of requirements for rights of priority under §§119 and 120.

ASSIGNEE OF ENTIRE INTEREST

HITACHI, LTD. is Assignee of entire right, title and interest in and to the present continuation by virtue of an Assignment recorded in prior application No. 09/799,527 on 7 March 2001 at Reel 011593, Frames 0071 et seq.

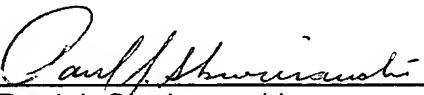
EXAMINER INVITED TO TELEPHONE

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the local D.C. area number 703-312-6600, to discuss an Examiner's Amendment or other suggested action for accelerating prosecution and moving the present application to allowance.

CONCLUSION

No Petition or fee is required for entry of this Preliminary Amendment.
Please charge any fee actually due in connection with the filing of this paper to
ATS&K Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (referencing case No. 500.39826CX1).

Respectfully submitted,


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